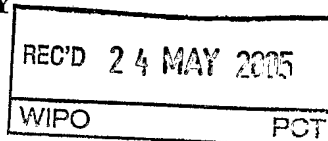


PATENT COOPERATION TREATY



From the:
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

**WATERMARK PATENT & TRADEMARK
ATTORNEYS**
Locked Bag 5
HAWTHORN VIC 3122

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) **20 MAY 2005**

Applicant's or agent's file reference
P23797PCAU

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/AU2005/000282

International filing date (day/month/year)
28 February 2005

Priority date (day/month/year)
3 March 2004

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
Int. Cl. ⁷ F16B 5/02, 12/18, 12/32, 37/00 ; A47B 47/04; B25B 5/10, E04B 1/61

Applicant
RAPIDJOINT Pty Ltd

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☒ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AU
**AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE
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**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.

PCT/AU2005/000282

Box No. I	Basis of the opinion
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- | | |
|----|--|
| 1. | With regard to the language , this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

<input type="checkbox"/> This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)). |
| 2. | With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:

a. type of material

<input type="checkbox"/> a sequence listing
<input type="checkbox"/> table(s) related to the sequence listing

b. format of material

<input type="checkbox"/> in written format
<input type="checkbox"/> in computer readable form

c. time of filing/furnishing

<input type="checkbox"/> contained in the international application as filed.
<input type="checkbox"/> filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
<input type="checkbox"/> furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search. |
| 3. | <input type="checkbox"/> In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished. |
| 4. | Additional comments: |

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.

PCT/AU2005/000282

Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention

1. ☒ In response to the invitation (Form PCT/ISA/206) to pay additional fees the applicant has:
- ☐ paid additional fees
- ☐ paid additional fees under protest
- ☒ not paid additional fees
2. ☐ This Authority found that the requirement of unity of invention is not complied with and chose not to invite the applicant to pay additional fees.
3. This Authority considers that the requirement of unity of invention in accordance with Rule 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3 is
- ☐ complied with
- ☒ not complied with for the following reasons:

The international application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention because it does not relate to one invention or to a group of inventions so linked as to form a single general inventive concept. In coming to this conclusion the International Searching Authority has found that there are different inventions as follows:

1. Claims 1-32 directed to a self aligning coupling device including elongate connecting portion with channel abutment portion and laterally projecting lug arranged such that in use the coupling device may be installed in the channel with the channel abutment portion located at least partially within the channel and the lug located outside the channel. It is considered that the channel abutment portion and laterally projecting lug arranged as such comprises a first "special technical feature".
2. Claims 33-37 directed to an engagement assembly functioning as a clamp member with elongate threaded member and with first and second bevel gear members and housing with external surface which, in use, abuts a surface of the object to be clamped. It is considered that the engagement assembly with first and second bevel gear members and housing arranged as such comprises a second "special technical feature".

Since the abovementioned groups of claims do not share any of the technical features identified, a "technical relationship" between the inventions, as defined in PCT rule 13.2 does not exist. Accordingly the international application does not relate to one invention or to a single inventive concept, a priori.

4. Consequently, this opinion has been established in respect of the following parts of the international application:
- ☐ all parts
- ☒ the parts relating to claims Nos. **1-32**

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.

PCT/AU2005/000282

Box No. V **Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims 1-32	YES
	Claims -	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims 1-32	YES
	Claims -	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1-32	YES
	Claims -	NO

2. Citations and explanations:

None of the citations identified in the International Search Report disclose a channel abutment portion of a coupling device which when aligned in a first angular position within the channel abuts at least one side wall of the channel to prevent rotation of the device in a first rotational direction about the longitudinal axis while allowing rotation in a second, opposed, rotational direction. Hence, claims 1-32 meet the criteria set forth in PCT Article 33 for novelty and inventive step.